



“A RELIGIOUS AWAKENING”

DEDICATION OF CANTERBURY CHURCH

The dedication took place April 11, 1915, when crowded congregations attended the morning, afternoon and evening services, in spite of adverse weather conditions.

In the morning, Archbishop Clarke reminded the congregation that about two years ago, when services were held in a small wooden church, he had urged the establishment of a building fund and the erection of a permanent church.

He pointed out that the dedication of the church was in close connection with the Easter festival, and he asked the congregation to turn their thoughts to some of the things told in the Gospel. “I am afraid”, the Archbishop continued, “I cannot say that the people of Australia are great readers of the Bible, I wish I could. I am afraid that our generation – not only here, but elsewhere – is so filled with the affairs of this life that it has lost many of the pious hopes in domestic affairs of its predecessors.”

Referring to the war, Archbishop Clarke said, "The last nine months have been a time of great anxiety. We have suffered less in Australia than has been the case in

England, France, Germany, Russia and many other places. There has been a veritable visitation to the world, brought about by man's passions, ambitions - by the desire to rule and to be supreme. The nations of the earth have for many weeks now been engaged in deadly conflict to know who is to rule. I want to say, however, that amid all this turmoil there is something else. There is a coming of Christ to the nations – a speaking of Christ to His church. I am happy to think there is some evidence throughout our own church that many people have recognised, the coming of the voice of Christ. There has been a marvellous spirit of tenderness, of generosity and kindness towards many of the people who are suffering through the war. There has been a warning, and an almost universal testimony in all our parishes of a Religious Awakening.

Oh, that this may continue!

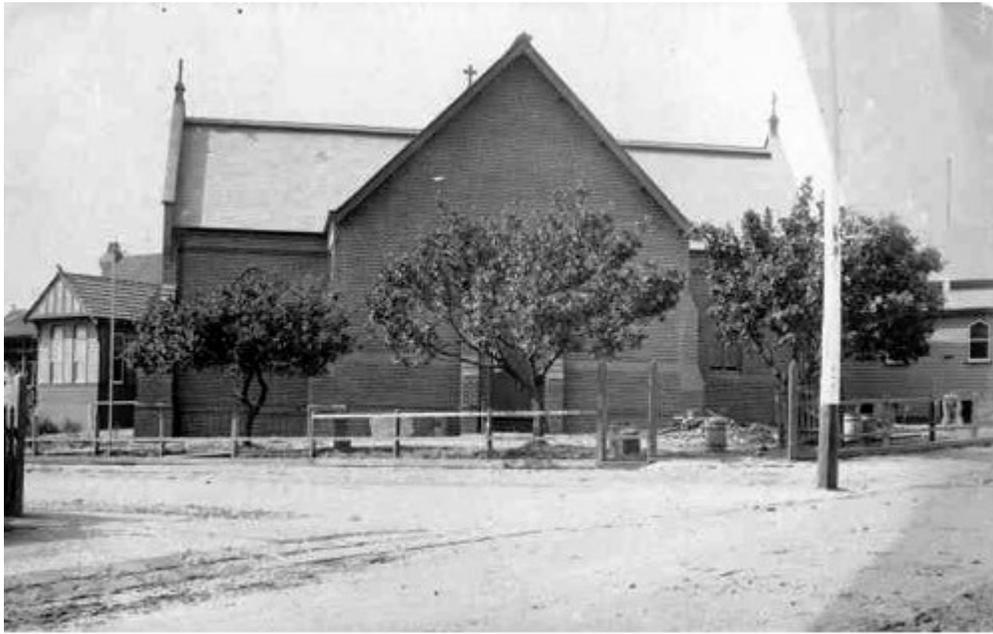
Australia needs it. We are so frivolous, kind-hearted always, but the ruling passion in most lives has been the desire to have a good time of life, with plenty of pleasure, and not to face the sterner duties that stand before every nation and people. Christ is drawing near to us in our church and nation at the present time. Invite Him to stay!”

The new church is built of brick and stone, and cost £2700.

The building contractor - Mr. A Holmes of Malvern, seating contractors - Messrs Clarkson and McCartin of Clifton Hill and the Hon. Architect – Mr A. Carleton.

The grounds were prepared by a working bee of C.E.M.S and other men, thereby saving an outlay of £20. The sum necessary for the church was raised by benefits such as bazaars, golden offerings and fetes, while £900 worth of debentures were issued to complete the amount. All the furnishings are of Tasmanian hardwood, the pulpit being the gift of the Sunday school. The organ cost £350. The altar vestments were worked by ladies of the church. The organist yesterday was Miss Hunter. The vicar of the new church is Rev. C.D. Desailly, BD.

At the morning service the petition to the Archbishop praying that the church be licensed and dedicated was read by Mr. F. C. Parry. A Children's service was conducted during the afternoon by Rev C E Perry, M.A., and at night the preacher was Dean Godby.



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Source: The Age, Monday 12 April 1915, p11